

Message Text

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SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT BALTIMORE SUN EDITORIAL SEPT. 16
HEADED "VIETNAM AND THE U.N."

2. THE SHIFT IN THE ADMINISTRATION.S RATIONALE FOR
KEEPING VIETNAM OUT OF THE UNITED NATIONS HAS PROBABLY
MOVED FORWARD ITS ADMISSION. LAST YEAR, THE UNITED
STATES VETOED MEMBERSHIP FOR TWO COMMUNIST COUNTRIES OF
VIETNAM BY LINKING THEM TO ADMISSION FOR SOUTH KOREA.
ON MONDAY, AMBASSADOR WILLIAM SCRANTON ANNOUNCED THAT
HE WOULD VETO ADMISSION FOR THE NEW UNIFIED COUNTRY OF
VIETNAM BECAUSE IT HAD MADE NO PROGRESS TOWARD A FULL
PROVISION OF INFORMATION ON 2,500 AMERICANS LISTED AS
MISSING IN ACTION THERE. THE FRENCH MEDIATION WHICH
POSTPONED THE ISSUE IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL UNTIL
NOVEMBER ALMOST INSULTINGLY ASSUMES THAT PRESIDENT
FORD.S POSITION (AND, FOR THAT MATTER, GOVERNOR CARTER.S
POSITION) IS GOOD ONLY THROUGH ELECTION DAY. THERE IS
MORE TO IT THAN THAT.

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3. THE POSITION LAST YEAR WAS SOLIDLY PRECEDENTED IN U.N. POLITICS. NATIONS FROM RIVAL BLOCS HAVE TRADI-

DITIONALLY BEEN ADMITTED TOGETHER IN COMPROMISE PACKAGES. THE SEPARATE EXISTENCE OF A COMMUNIST SOUTH VIETNAM WAS A TRANSITIONAL FICTION THAT DID NOT DESERVE U.N. MEMBERSHIP. SOUTH KOREA IS AN EMBARRASSMENT TO ITS ALLIES, HOWEVER, AND CANNOT JUSTIFY THE SUPPORT OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES THAT IT SHOULD HAVE. LINKING VIETNAM'S ADMISSION TO THE MIAS IS A WAY OF MAKING A DEMAND THAT CAN EASILY BE MET, IN EFFECT CLEARING PART OF THE OBSTACLES TO VIETNAM'S ENTRY. IT ALSO LINKS THE ISSUE, DURING AN ELECTION CAMPAIGN OR NOT, TO ANOTHER ISSUE OF VITAL CONCERN TO MILLIONS OF AMERICANS.

4. VIETNAM HAS NOT SO FAR PROVIDED MORE THAN TOKEN INFORMATION ON MIAS BECAUSE THEY ARE ITS LAST REMAINING LEVERAGE ON AMERICAN POLICY. AS MANY AS 800 PERSONS NOT ALSO LISTED AS DEAD ARE, LIVING OR DEAD, ALL HANOI HAS TO GIVE THAT WASHINGTON WANTS. WHAT HANOI WANTS IS SUBSTANTIAL AMERICAN RECONSTRUCTION AID AS PROVIDED BY THE PARIS PEACE TALKS AND HENRY KISSINGER'S MISSION TO HANOI IN EARLY 1973. THE UNITED STATES, HOWEVER, HAS LONG SINCE REPUDIATED THIS COMMITMENT JUST AS HANOI HAS RENEGED ON ITS OWN COMMITMENT TO FREE ELECTIONS IN SOUTH VIETNAM UNDER INTERNATIONAL SUPERVISION.

5. THE WAY FORWARD TO A NEW RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND VIETNAM MUST SURELY BEGIN WITH A UNILATERAL PROVISION BY VIETNAM OF ALL THE INFORMATION IT HAS ON MIAS. ANY DISCUSSION ON AID MUST FLOW FROM THAT NEW RELATIONSHIP. AS FOR THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE LONGER RUN, THE ONLY INTELLIGIBLE PRINCIPLE TO MEMBERSHIP IS UNIVERSALITY. VIETNAM, NO MATTER HOW IT BEHAVES, BELONGS IN. SO DOES SOUTH KOREA. END TEXT. HABIB

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